

10/560463

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IAP20 REG JPH/10 14 DE 2005

28 February, 2005

The Commissioner of Patents
WODEN ACT 2606

Action as the International Preliminary Examination Authority

Our Ref: 12256731/ARS/skp
Re: Weir Warman Ltd
International Patent Application No.
PCT/AU2004/000784
"Improved pump impeller"

Sir

We refer to the Demand for Preliminary Examination filed on 17 January 2005 and the Written Opinion which issued earlier.

Enclosed is a Statement of Proposed Amendments.

As will be noted, the subject matter of Claim 2 has been incorporated into Claim 1. It is noted that this claim is considered to be novel although it is suggested that the invention as defined by this claim does not involve an inventive step. The applicant must respectfully disagree with this view. As is discussed in some detail in the specification of the present application the configuration of the shroud and the auxiliary and pumping vanes considerably reduces the wear on those vanes. This configuration produced a surprising result which was not contemplated in any of the prior art document referred to and would not be apparent to a person skilled in this particular art.

Thus it is respectfully submitted that there would be no reason for a person skilled in this art to combine the subject matter of any of the documents referred to.

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28 February, 2005

Favourable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

IAP20 Rec'd PGT/PTO 14 DEC 2005

Yours respectfully

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Enc.

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AUSTRALIAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. PCT/AU2004/000784

WEIR WARMAN LTD. 14 DEC 2005

FIRST STATEMENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. Delete claims pages 8 and 9 at presently on file and replace with new claims pages 8 and 9 forwarded herewith, together with a marked up copy to show changes.

28 February, 2005